



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

September 21, 2007

Ms. Danielle Brian
Executive Director
Project on Government Oversight
666 Eleventh Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Brian:

Thank you for your September 5, 2007, letter concerning security at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). I take security seriously at all Department of Energy (DOE) sites, particularly at our most sensitive facilities such as our nuclear weapons laboratories.

I am aware of the specific security incidents that have occurred at LANL. The Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Thomas P. D'Agostino, has and continues to make personnel changes both at the Site Office and within the Laboratory. Earlier this year, Deputy Secretary Clay Sell issued new cyber security policies to strengthen our protection of computer systems, and the information stored on them. I support those efforts and the efforts of the local NNSA Site Office to ensure that these new policies are implemented within LANL, and across all DOE sites.

Inspections at all DOE sites, including LANL, are conducted without any limitations by the DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security and the Office of the Inspector General. The NNSA Act authorizes me to direct these and other DOE offices outside of NNSA to review NNSA programs and activities and report their findings to me. When security incidents occur, they are investigated to ensure that the root cause and accountability are determined and corrective actions implemented to the satisfaction of the Department. If appropriate, actions to address security infractions are taken against the responsible organizations and personnel, holding them accountable for their conduct. These infractions can result in the assessment of fines, the issuance of compliance orders, and loss of security clearances.

We also take our nuclear safety responsibilities and the associated oversight of safety activities seriously. The NNSA evaluation report discussed in your letter is one example of the critical self-assessment process used to evaluate how NNSA is executing its responsibilities and to identify opportunities or tools for improvement. When the LANL report is finalized, it will serve as the basis to define specific actions both at LANL and at Headquarters to improve nuclear safety.



I can assure you that every level of our management team is focused on improving performance in these areas, not just at Los Alamos but across our complex.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SW Bodman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Samuel W. Bodman